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January 28, 1991

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

TO: Mine File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Field Inspection and Meeting, Bingham Pit, M/035/002, Kennecott Utah Copper, Salt Lake County, Utah

Date of Inspection: January 18, 1991
Time of Inspection: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Weather Conditions: Overcast, cold, snow on ground
Attendees: Tony Gallegos, Holland Shepherd, DOGM; Bart Kale, Reclamation Engineer; John Samuelson, Mine Engineer; Greig Fauquier, Mine Superintendent; Jeff Tygesen, Technical Supervisor; Cindy Emmons, Environmental Affairs Director, Kennecott.

This inspection was directed at an evaluation of the operator's waste dump activity, topsoiling and main pit expansion. Also, a meeting was set up as a means of introduction to Kennecott's new mine superintendent, Mr. Greig Faquier and new Director of Environmental Affairs, Ms. Cindy Emmons. The inspection was made with Mr. Kale and Mr. Samuelson. A meeting with mine management was performed after the inspection. The inspection and meeting was preceded by a letter sent January 16, 1991, to Kennecott, discussing some outstanding permitting issues. The letter was to set the stage for this inspection and others to come.

According to Mr. Samuelson, the highest dump at the mine is 900 feet high. The slope length of this dump is @1,100 feet, with no bench interruptions. Many of the existing dumps are similar in height and length to the one described above. Material is dumped at the crest of the dump. Over a years time, the crest will move outward @30 feet. These dumps present a definite challenge to reclaim because of their slope (37° angle of repose) length, and material composition.

The first dump we visited has been designated Code 28, by the operator. It is active is 500 feet high and has angle of repose slopes. We expressed concern that no topsoil salvage was taking place at the toe of the dump. The advance of the dump will eventually cover native areas preventing topsoil recovery. The operator explained

Page 2
Field Inspection
Bingham Pit
M/035/002
January 28, 1991

that, because of the size of the dump, it was very dangerous to salvage material, at the toe. The safest distance would be 1,000 feet from the toe. We explained that if this was the only option, then this would be needed. Another option might be to establish a substitute borrow area or areas, for topsoil salvage.

We also visited the Code 3B dump, which is the dump described earlier as being 900 feet in height and 1,100 feet in length. Photos were taken of the native areas in front of the dumps. Also, photos were taken of a drainage in front of the Code 3B dump. The drainage was interrupted in a couple places by small impoundments. The water in the drainage appeared murky. The water may originate from dump leachate.

We visited the Yosemite Truck Maintenance area, where the operator has initiated a large topsoil stockpile (October of 91). The topsoil originates from the Carr Fork area of the Bingham Pit. Two stockpiles are found in this area of the mine.

We visited the Code 66 area of the mine where a large amount of topsoil material has been mounded. It originates from the Old Observation Point area of the mine.

The Apex area of the mine is where virgin pit expansion is, currently, taking place. This was our last stop on this inspection.

According to Mr. Samuelson, active dumps are as follows: Code 84, Code 30, Code 28, Code 65 and Code 66.

After the site inspection, a meeting was conducted with all the individuals listed as attendees on this memo. The purpose of the meeting was to inform Kennecott management about the Division's concerns regarding: the continued expansion of the waste dumps, without taking into account topsoiling and future reclamation of the dump faces; pit expansion; topsoiling; and deleterious waste materials.

The meeting was very positive. Kennecott management indicated that they wanted to meet the Division's concerns in as timely a manner as possible. They indicated that plans were being drawn up to construct more benches on the dump faces and that other concerns developed in our January 16, 1991 letter would be addressed. Indications of a willingness to work with the Division were made apparent.

Page 3
Field Inspection
Bingham Pit
M/035/002
January 28, 1991

It will be necessary to schedule future site visits to the mine to follow-up on the topics developed above.

jb

cc: Bart Kale, Kennecott
Wayne Hedberg
Tony Gallegos
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